



VETERINARY SERVICE NEWS

FIRST QUARTER FY2018



Animal Care Specialist Receives Angels of the Battlefield Award

Animal Care Specialist was recognized for her work treating MWD Pako, who had suffered a severe heat stroke, with the Angels of the Battlefield Award at the 11th Annual Angels of the Battlefield Awards Gala. The Angels Gala honored medics, corpsmen, and para-rescuemen from all branches of the military. The Animal Care Specialist is stationed at the Regional Health Command-Atlantic. The Special Assistant to the MEDCOM Commanding General presented the award on behalf of the Army Surgeon General.

“Last summer, this Soldier received an active duty patient by the name of Pako who came to her near death with severe heat stroke, respiratory distress, with a dangerously altered and even violent mental state. Without any direction, the Sergeant performed an assessment, contacted the doctor, administered 10 minutes of CPR, and successfully applied respiratory support, cooling and other life-saving measures for thirty minutes until the doctor arrived. When the doctor made the decision to transfer the patient to an advanced care site, she continued care during patient transport. After the patient’s eventual discharge, she continued to oversee the patient’s recovery and rehabilitation procedures in the following weeks.

Her actions assured Pako’s survival and rapid return to work. Without her aggressive and precise care, his survival and functionality afterwards would not have been possible. This extraordinary care exemplifies the Army VETERINARY Corps dedication to ALL of our fellow Army Soldier’s as Pako is a Military Working Dog”.



The Animal Care Specialist receiving the Angels of the Battlefield Award during the annual Gala.

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The Army Surgeon General, receives a briefing from ABMC Cadre, dressed as WWI medical personnel in a replica of a WWI medic station at JBSA-Camp Bullis, Texas.



The Regional Clinical Consultant for Public Health Command-Central, earned 2nd place in the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Foundation resident publication competition for her article published in *Veterinary Surgery* entitled, "Carotid artery bursting pressure and seal time after multiple uses of a vessel sealing device."

Photo used with permission.



Period equipment at a WWI medic station during the ABMC at JBSA-Camp Bullis, Texas.



The CBRN Hill during the Army Best Medic Competition. JBSA-Camp Bullis, Texas



Snapshots around the Services



BOLC Graduates have a mentoring lunch with senior Veterinary Corps leaders on JBSA-Ft Sam Houston.



Bravo Team, 438 MDVSS pose prior to entering the Army Warrior Tasks certification lane.



The Recruiting Station in Times Square, New York City.



PHA-Guam Soldiers Aid USGS' Invasive Brown Tree Snake Study

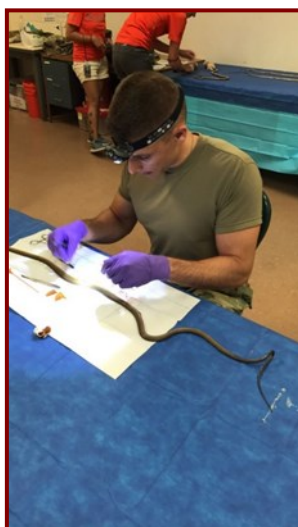
PHA-Guam, Guam Naval Base soldiers assisted the local United States Geological Survey (USGS) in the pilot stages of a research project aimed at studying the invasive Brown Tree Snake (BTS). Soldiers performed BTS radio transmitter implantation surgical procedure on 13 snakes. Animal Care Specialists developed tissue handling skills and learned several suture patterns. The event provided the opportunity for PHA-Guam Soldiers to extend their influence beyond the DoD to the USGS, and provide surgical expertise toward the fight against an economically and environmentally important invasive species.



A VCO instructs an Animal Care Specialist



A VCO implants a transmitter into a Brown Tree Snake



A VCO implants a transmitter



A snake undergoes anesthetic induction

Veterinary Support to the 72nd United Nations General Assembly

PHA-Fort Belvoir Veterinary Corps Officers and Animal Care Specialists from around PHA-Fort Belvoir came together to provide veterinary support to the United States Secret Service (USSS) Technical Services Division (TSD) for the 72nd United Nations General Assembly in New York, New York in September. The Veterinary Team provided routine and sick call care for Military Working Dogs and Secret Services dogs on a 24-hour basis, and made daily visits to the dog teams.

The PHA-FB Veterinary Team collaborated with many players to ensure mission success, including the USSS Technical Service Division, Department of Defense Canine Coordinators, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Command Team, and members of the National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT), an asset of the National Disaster Medical Response System. The partnership fostered between the DoD Veterinary Team and the NVRT during the mission ensured that care for sick or injured working dogs was provided promptly. The open communication between entities ensured that patient medical records were updated to reflect the care provided, regardless of which entity provided it.

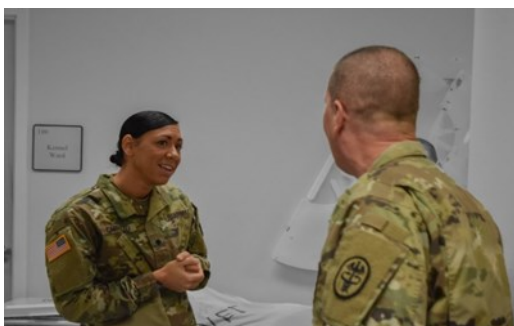


The assembled PHA-Fort Belvoir Veterinary Team.



An Animal Care Specialist reunites with a Military Working Dog he previously worked with while stationed at the US Air Force Academy

Veterinary Corps Chief Visits Joint Base Lewis



Clockwise from top left: FYGVE personnel and PHA-FL Command team discuss FYGVE-JBLM curriculum with BG Tarring.

An Animal Care Specialist discusses the MWD mission with BG Tarring.

BG Tarring and a MWD demonstrate the Human Animal Bond (HAB).

BG Tarring and a Veterinary Food Inspection Specialist (68R) discuss DECA and commissary operations.

BG Tarring and PHC-P service line personnel discuss biosurveillance and medical entomology.

BG Tarring, 218th MDVSS leadership, and FYGVE cadre discuss MTOE mission capabilities and collaboration with FYGVE assets.

BG Tarring and a Veterinary Food Inspection Specialist (68R) discuss food defense and vulnerability.



In October, Public Health Activity—Fort Lewis (PHA-FL) hosted the Veterinary Corps Chief, Brigadier General Erik H. Tarring's site visit to Joint Base Leis McChord (JBLM). BG Tarring took the opportunity to engage and evaluate the status of the First Year Graduate Veterinary Education (FYGVE) training program; meet, great, answer questions, and recognize exceptional members of the PHA-FL team; and gain perspective on the multiple pilot programs and cross-organizational collaborations shared by Public Health assets on JBLM. Soldier led tours and presentations of unique PHA-FL initiatives and successes at the Role 3 Veterinary Center (VETCEN) and the McChord Commissary. PHA-FL, PHC-P service line personnel, 218th MDVSS, and 1st SFG(A) personnel showcased Soldiers and Civilians to describe program successes and challenges, and discussed the way ahead. BG Tarring's first visit to PHA-FL provided an excellent platform to discuss One Health, AMEDD, and future strategy for our organization.

Regional Health Command -Pacific Commanding General Visits Joint Base Lewis McChord



Pictures from Top to Bottom:
The RHC-P Commanding General and FYGVE Captains discuss FYGVE- JBLM curriculum.

RHC-P Commanding General and Medical Entomologist discuss vector borne disease surveillance and examine mosquito specimens recently submitted from Hawaii.

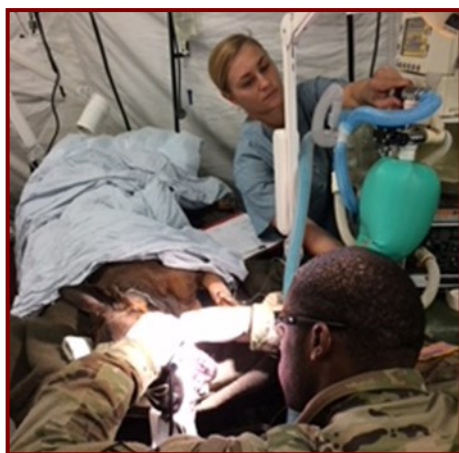
RHC-P Commanding General and PHC-P service line personnel discuss biosurveillance and tour the laboratory facilities.

In December, Public Health Activity—Fort Lewis (PHA-FL) hosted the Regional Health Command—Pacific (RHC-P) Commanding General during a site visit to Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM). The visit showcased Public Health Command - Pacific (PHC-P) assets to include co-located PHA-FL and Service Line personnel. The objectives of the visit were to engage and evaluate the status of the RHC-P's Public Health assets located at JBLM; meet, greet, answer questions, and recognize exceptional members of the Public Health team in support of the One Health initiative; and to gain perspective on the multiple pilot programs and cross-organizational collaboration shared by Public Health assets on JBLM. PHA-FL Soldiers led tours and presented unique Public Health initiatives and successes at JBLM and across the PHC-P area of operations. PHA-FL and PHC-P service line personnel showcased Soldiers and Civilians to describe program successes and challenges, and to discuss the way ahead for PHA-FL and the greater PHC-P. BG Providence's visit to PHA-FL provided an excellent platform for discussion of One Health, AMEDD, and future strategic change for our organization.

43rd MDVSS Conducts CTE at NAS Corpus Christi



The 43D MDVSS conducted full spectrum veterinary operations at NAS Corpus Christi as part of the 1 MED BDE CTE. 43D MDVSS performed dental exams and prophylaxis with tooth extractions and root canal, in addition to elective surgeries and semi-annual physical exams on US Customs and Border Patrol canines. The animal medicine team also performed equine exams and saw outpatient visits. The food team validated on operational rations and military retail sanitary inspections and bioluminescence (NovaLum swabbing) technology; conducted joint galley inspections with Navy Preventive Medicine teams; and completed a two-day Food Management Course.



MRICD Chemical Casualty Training Addresses Treatment of Military Working Dogs

Cindy Kronman, MRICD

Working dogs are a vital asset to the fighting force, as well as to civilian emergency responders, and they face the same dangers as their human handlers, to include exposure to chemical warfare agents on the battlefield or in a potential terrorist attack. In such a scenario, these canine victims would likely first be seen by forward medical teams that are unlikely to include a veterinarian.

So in 2013 when a Veterinary Corps Officer —then newly assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense—went through the MRICD's Medical Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties course, he saw an opportunity within the institute's training to provide instruction to members of the medical profession who may find themselves facing canine exposure casualties along with their human patients.

The objective was getting the medical professionals and first responders who attend the institute's medical and field management of chemical and biological casualty training to think about the issues and logistics involved in treating military working dogs (MWDs). Much of the information is applicable to other types of working dogs, service animals, and personal pets, which could be important in assisting municipal emergency preparedness teams in complying with the 2006 Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act. The act requires that preparedness plans for major disasters or emergencies address the rescue, care and shelter of pets and service animals.

The VCO approached the MRICD's Chemical Casualty Care Division (CCCD), which develops and provides both the Medical Management and Field Management of Chemical and Biological Casualty courses. The division was enthusiastic about adding MWD-focused instruction to the training, particularly since its staff had been fielding questions from the combatant commands about MWD exposures, and they suggested that he prepare the lecture.

While the institute's courses already packed a lot of information and exercises into the week-long training, with little room for additions, the presentation "Military Working Dogs and the CBRNE Environment" was worked in as a lunchtime lecture. In the four years since the



Photo: During the field exercise of the Medical Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties course, a student practices administering an autoinjector treatment for nerve agent exposure in the thigh of a military working dog, using an automatic training device and a canine manikin. (Photo by Darrell Jenson, MRICD)

MRICD Chemical Casualty Training Addresses Treatment of Military Working Dogs

initial lecture, several refinements have been made to the MWD-specific training, and to supplement the classroom instruction, a station on MWDs was eventually added to each course's practical field exercise, complete with two canine manikins. Additionally, several of MRICD's Veterinary Corps officers now rotate as the lecture presenter.

"Our medical and field management courses are continually evolving to answer the warfighter's critical needs with the goal of meeting our Nation's challenges," said Timothy Byrne, director of CCCD's courses. "This particular lecture and associated field training addresses the unique challenge of how the possible use of chemical warfare agents or toxic industrial chemicals during a terrorist incident or in a time of war could impact our Nation's elite K9 working dogs."

"The response from operators and medical personnel alike has been extremely positive," continued Byrne. "One operator said to me about the course, 'Just what we needed during this critical time in Afghanistan. Our dogs are at great risk from the opioid fields, pesticides, etc.!'"

The training covers safety issues, special considerations, the effects of the agents in dogs, and decontamination. Students are reminded that an exposed MWD is experiencing stress like any other casualty, especially if its handler has been injured, so the first safety consideration is to muzzle the dog to avoid being bitten. Not only are dog bites painful, the lecture points out, but they can be serious enough to make the caregiver a patient, and further, to compromise the caregiver's protective, or MOPP (Mission Oriented Protective Posture), clothing, thus exposing that individual to the contaminated environment. In the field exercise, students learn how to use gauze to muzzle the dog, if its regular muzzle is not available.

The signs and symptoms of exposure in dogs are similar to those in humans, and while the only treatments that exist have been developed for humans, students learn how to adjust the doses of these antidotes when treating a MWD. The field exercise provides training in properly administering the fielded autoinjectors to the animal, using the simulated canine.

Additionally, students learn some notable differences between canine and human exposures. For example, a dog's fur slows absorption of the chemical through its skin; however, the dog will be more sensitive to exposure on other areas, such as its paws, its axilla (or armpit) and on its belly. A dog can also be exposed by licking itself or the ground or by eating and drinking contaminated food and water.

Information on decontamination includes what products can and cannot be used on canines, the most efficient procedure (head to tail), and how to prevent re-contamination, for example, by placing the dog in a covered transportable kennel after it is decontaminated. The lecture also gives suggestions for providing protection for dogs that must work in a contaminated environment. These include using ponchos to cover the dog's body or using specimen bags, MRE bags, or extra butyl rubber gloves wrapped with tape to cover the dog's paws.

438th MDVSS and PHA-Carson Conduct Operation Mountain Goat to Prepare for Deployment

In August, Soldiers from the 438th MDVSS completed a certification exercise (CERTEX) in preparation for an upcoming deployment. A collaborative effort, the 438th MDVSS was evaluated by PHA-Carson, and the 627th HC (formerly the 10th CSH and the Army's first to undertake the force design update).

After arriving at area of operations (AO), certifying Soldiers rapidly and successfully established communications, set up tents and prepared for the week ahead. Certification lanes included the three principal areas that reflect Unit responsibilities in theater: (i) Food protection, (ii) Force protection, and (iii) Animal care.

Validation of food protection METL tasks included a morning of round-robin scenarios. In the first portion of the round-robin, Soldiers tested their proficiency in responding to refrigeration failure, receipt inspections, laboratory food sample submission in response to a food-borne outbreak, and inspection of OPRATs. In the afternoon, Team Leaders presented mock food defense outbriefings to a "garrison commander," and performed military sanitary inspections at installation shoppettes, and food storage facilities. Subject matter experts from PHA-Carson served as external evaluators.

Meanwhile, the 627th HC Leadership conducted numerous injects to test the Detachment Leaders' ability to respond to unforeseen changes in Mission requirements and to evaluate their



A VCO leads VSST A in a Food Protection scenario, with the PHA-Carson Food Safety Officer evaluating.



A Soldier dons their Promask during the AWT lane.



OPFOR is searched and detained as part of the Force Protection training.

Operation Mountain Goat, continued...

ability to remain resilient. To simulate challenges that may be faced in theatre, the potential for force protection injects was omnipresent. The Leaders and Soldiers were required to remain ever vigilant and ready to respond. Additionally, the 438th HQs element served as the CERTEX OPFOR, and provided CBRN and AWT lanes.

Finally, animal care proficiency was conducted at the Fort Carson VETCEN and facilitated by PHA-Carson personnel, the VETCEN OIC, and a GS Technician. In the afternoon, the VMST OIC and unit's clinical specialist led emergency scenarios, testing the OICs' ability to respond to traumas that may be encountered in theatre. Emergency cases included heat casualties, tension pneumothorax, internal bleeding, and related issues. For both real and simulated METL tasks, Leaders and Soldiers were certified by external evaluators.



A PFC places a catheter in Bravo Team's first patient (elective orchiectomy and scrotal ablation), as the unit clinical specialist (64F, VMST) and cadre provide in-

By the end of the week, all 23 Soldiers poised to deploy were credentialed in their respective MOS responsibilities. Despite numerous missions, the 438th MDVSS flourished under tight deadlines and received praise from the 627th HC. Moreover, the CERTEX served as a model for MEDCOM and FORSCOM integration, as PHA-Carson and the Medical Detachment worked in tandem throughout preparation, execution and recovery phases. Go Badgers!



The Commander of the 627th HC congratulates the 438th MDVSS Soldiers on a successful week.

438th MDVSS Trains CWD Handlers in Heat Injury Prevention and Treatment

After arriving at Kandahar Airfield, VSST B (438TH MDVSS, 627th HC) was eager to dive into their work. Naturally, the Veterinary Team hoped to be heavily involved in the care, maintenance and training of Military and Contract Working Dogs, alike. These dogs are high-energy and conditioned to the fast pace inherent to their training. Each dog, their handlers, and the head trainers practice IED detection and bite work, utilizing scenarios in varying environments. Scenarios may include building searches, bite work, and area sweeps; correct identification of a scent or missing person is rewarded with their favorite toy (and of course some belly rubs!). Daily practice is essential for these canines to remain at peak performance and to become more proficient in their field.

Additionally, the handlers and support staff embrace the opportunity to learn the basics of tactical casualty combat care (TC3) for the Working Dog. Overall, it is beneficial for the handler to practice their medical skills and will enhance their confidence in the event of a real life trauma. An added benefit is that this training enhances the human-animal bond.

At the kennel's request, a VCO and a Animal Care Specialist focused the first TC3 instruction on preventing, diagnosing, and treating the canine heat casualty. A hands-on portion would allow handlers to place intravenous catheters in their respective dogs (in the event that an emergency warranted fluid therapy and/or medical intervention). VSST B team members were joined by members of the 422nd MDVS (Forward) as part of a collaborative effort.



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438th MDVSS Trains CWD Handlers in Heat Injury Prevention and Treatment

First, the VCO presented on the basics of diagnosis and treatment of heat injury, emphasizing that prevention is the best strategy. Additionally, she demonstrated what normal is such that the handlers could better identify abnormal signs and behavior. The VCO discussed preventive methods such as taking frequent breaks, an acclimation period for working dogs to a new environment, having plenty of water accessible for the canine, and maintaining a high level of fitness.

After the initial overview, the veterinary personnel split up into two teams. The Animal Care Specialist demonstrated the proper technique for placement of intravenous catheter in the cephalic vein. Under the instruction of a veterinarian and technician, the handlers then prepared the requisite supplies, aseptically prepared the catheter site, and attempted to place an IV catheter into their dog. Even though the handlers had no experience placing intravenous catheters, there was a 100% success rate for each handler-working dog pair. Once the task was completed, the handler removed the IV and placed a pressure bandage at the entry site. The handler then became the assistant, learning the proper technique for restraining a veterinary patient.

All in all, seeing these handlers work alongside their incredible dogs is amazing, and certainly has become this author's favorite way to spend her day.



Department of Veterinary Science Updates

The Department of Veterinary Science at the AMEDD Center and School Health Readiness Center of Excellence (AMEDDCS HRCoE) continues its mission to train new members of our Service. Already during the month of October, DVS has graduated our newest Veterinary Food Inspection Specialists (68R) and Veterinary Corps Officers.

Congratulations to all of our graduates and Welcome to the Army Veterinary Service family!



Above: The Chief of DVS, presents the BG Elia Excellence in Leadership Award

Left: Veterinary Food Inspection Specialist (68R) AIT Graduation

Below: Basic Officer Leadership Course graduation.



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Department of Veterinary Science Updates

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Captain's Career Course Veterinary Corps graduates



The VC Proponent Officer congratulates the VC Top Graduate..



Food Safety Officers (640A) stand with the Consultant and CSBPO following their graduation from Captains Career Course.

The Department of Veterinary Science's Food Protection Branch Senior Instructor/Writer and HPSP Veterinary Student Advisor, received the 2017 Southwest Veterinary Symposium (SWVS) LTC Daniel Holland, DVM Memorial Scholarship. This award is given to veterinary leaders actively engaged in public health, nation building, or food security programs.



Colombia Military Working Dog (MWD) SMEE

In May, the ARSOUTH Veterinarian and the AMEDD C&S Animal Medicine Branch Chief conducted a SMEE with Colombian Army Veterinary Service personnel in Colombia. The SMEE covered MWD infectious disease prevention and control and MWD breeding programs.

Army Veterinarians shared lessons learned on prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, specifically Leishmaniosis and Ehrlichiosis, affecting both nation's MWDs. They also shared lessons learned on MWD breeding programs.

The Colombian Army (COLAR) shares many of the same health challenges seen with MWD breeding program in the United States—primarily sanitary kennel conditions. The COLAR experiences a very high incidence of Leishmaniosis (17%) and Ehrlichiosis (26%) in its MWD population. Different prevention strategies, such as the application of parasite control products when operating in high risk areas, would greatly reduce incidence of disease in MWDs. Both of these diseases are zoonotic and their high incidence in areas of Colombia highlights the importance of ensuring U.S. service members (human and dog alike) use proper vector repellants when operating in this environment.



Left: Meet and greet with , COLAR Engineer Commander

Right: Breeding program used to supplement MWD need for demining/anti-IED operations.



Left: Leishmaniosis in dogs.

Right: Exchange of current MWD preventative health and breeding program strategies.



Snapshots around the Services

Fort Campbell Soldier Inducted into the NCO Corps



A newly inducted NCO stands underneath the Congratulations from the MED-

PHA-Fort Knox welcomed a new NCO who was inducted into the NCO Corps at Fort Campbell. The NCO induction ceremony is a celebration of the newly promoted joining the ranks of a professional non-commissioned officer corps and emphasizes and builds on the pride we all share as members of such an elite corps. The MEDCOM Command Sergeant Major was the guest speaker.



Congratulations to the Veterinary Team for their performance representing RHC-Atlantic and the Veterinary Service in the [Army Best Medic Competition](#) held at JBSA Fort Sam Houston.

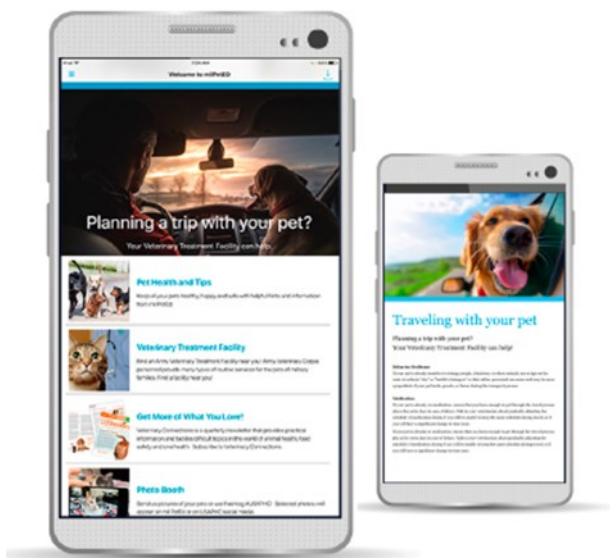
Clockwise from top left: Team 17A prepares for the CBRN lane; Team 17A gets instructions for DNBI/Orientating lane; Dragging the casualty at the physical fitness lanes; Competitors finish the Ruck March at Ft Sam Houston flagpole in the early morning.

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Unaffiliated:

1. UVMA (Uniformed Veterinary Medicine Association)
2. AREVP (Association of Retired Enlisted Veterinary Personnel)
3. The mighty 68R club
4. R.E.S.T. NCO Global Support Community (formerly the 68T, 68R and 68S NCO Leadership Support Forum)
5. Soldiers of the Veterinary Corps
6. Army Veterinary Corps Group
7. Former Students of the 68R10 Veterinary Food Inspection (2012-2015)
8. 68T [Animal Care Specialist] MOS